Special Commando Force for Jammu and Kashmir

1998. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army has a plan to raise a special commando force or an elite unit of its own on the pattern of the National Security Guards to flush out militants from mosques and shrines in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such a force would be for a limited purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement with Pakistan to stop firing across the border

1999. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of firing across Pakistan border has been increasing, targetting the innocent civilians;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents as a result taken place during this year from 1st January till today and the casualties thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to make agreement with Pakistan to stop firing across the border; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While no agreement exists between the two sides as regards the stoppage of firing along the International Border, Line of Control, Actual Ground Position Line, Indian security forces deployed here always exercise great restraint. There has also been a substantial decline in the firing from across the International

Border/Line of Control/Actual Ground Position Line during the current year.

Completion of Venkataswami Commission of inquiry

2000. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Venkataswami Commission of inquiry probing the Tehelka Scam has completed its work; and

(b) if not, how long it would take to complete the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Commission had informed that its work is under way and its Public Hearings are also in progress, but are not likely to be completed within the given period. It, therefore, proposed to extend the period of the Commission by another four months from 24.7.2001. The Government has since accepted the request of the Commission and has granted extension of time for a further period of four months from 24.7.2001 so as to enable the Commission to complete its work in all respects.

Annual flight safety conference of Indian Air Force

2001. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual flight safety conference of the Indian Air Force was held at Bangalore on 26th June, 2001;

(b) whether the issue of frequent air crashes of IAF aircrafts, particularly, of MIG variety was discussed in the conference;

(c) whether training of pilots and proper maintenance of aircrafts were emphasised; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the steps suggested to improve these aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir. However, the